technical scrutiny. The villagers of Edayakurichi have requested that draw wells might be sunk instead of borewells as originally proposed. This is being enquired into.

" (c) Borewells are sunk by the Revenue Department in consultation with the Industries Department and so it usually takes a little longer for the proposals to materialise and the works to start."

*Grant of takkavi loans in Kurumbranad taluk.*

* 1650 *Q.*—Sri C. KUNHIRAMA KURUP: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of applications for thakkavi loans received during the year 1953 from Kurumbranad taluk, North Malabar;

(*b*) the number of applications sanctioned; and

(*c*) the amount of loan distributed?

The Hon. Sri M. A. MANICKAVELU :—

| | By the District Agricultural Officer, Tellicherry. | By the Revenue Department. |
|---|---|---|
| " (*a*) | 399 | 5 |
| " (*b*) | 258 | Nil. |
| " (*c*) | Rs. 21,260 | Nil." |

*Compulsory elementary education.*

* 1651 *Q.*—Sri L. ANANDAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in compulsory elementary education areas no action has been taken against defaulters; and

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to make compulsory education effective?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are Government aware that from 1948 when the Government stopped the supply of mid-day meals to children attending the schools under compulsion, the attendance has fallen? Are the Government also aware that the attendance has fallen mainly due to the poverty of the parents and the stoppage of the mid-day meals? In view of the importance of the matter, will the Government see that the provision of mid-day meals is reintroduced in the areas where there is compulsion?"